

West Virginia Writers' Project
RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject Commerce & Industry. Lumber

Date 2/28/41

Research Worker Samuel G Smith

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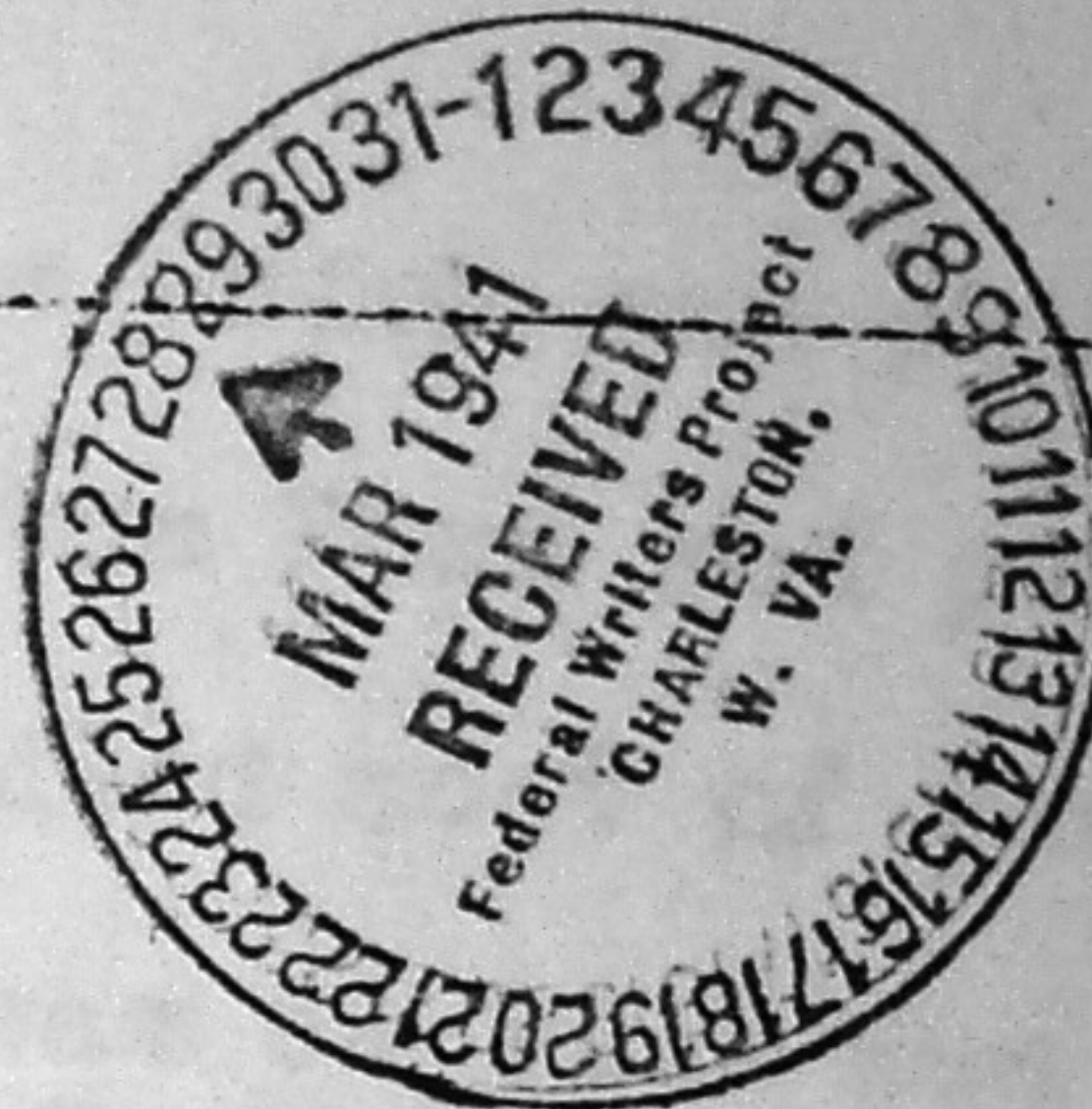
Source James Gibson Marlinton. W. Va.

Date Filed _____

C.G McGuire. " "

Harry Varner " "

Harlan Gibson. " "



Commerce And Industry. Samuel G. Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County.
- Lumber-

James Gibson of the old Field Fork of Elk started in the lumber business in 1887 and continued until 1907 when he sold his circular mill these operations were mostly on Elk River and are the following two sets on Crooked Fork one sawed by John Sydenstricker the other by Alex Robertson at the W.O Jack place, a set at Hugh Sharps and one at Silas Sharps these were near Slaty Fork in 1890 this land is now owned by L.D Sharp this was all skidded by James Gibson and sawed by Alex Robertson.

He had two sets at the Thomas Hogsett place which was principally cherry which was wagoned to Marlinton to Marlins Bottom Ford and put in the river and rafted to Ronceverte, William H Overholt handled most of the Cherry.

Two sets near Robert Gibsons one of these was on Mill Run the timber coming from the McCalister place } Later owned by W. Va Pulp & Paper Co. Now owned by the U.S Government.

One set on the home place now owned by Clark Hannah and here the boiler blew up killing William Jack of Elk.

One set about 1900 up Mill Hollow then owned by Uriah Hefner, and another at Sam Varners now owned by N.W Shaw.

One set on the Robert Dunlap farm now owned by Dunlap Brothers of Va. one set where Pat Vandevender now lives, a set on the Cup farm on Cloverlick road, Henry Higgins sawyer.

A set on Dry Branch sawed by John And Bryne Swecker of Randolph County.

Mr Gibson who is 86 years old still displays the old time hospitality that was found on Elk back at that time and has fed thousands of people passing down Elk and is known near and far as Uncle Jim.

His sons helped in some way in most of these operations they are Levi, Frank, Harlan, Dock, Winters, Summers and Forest they drove team, out timber or whatever there was to do, they used 3 yoke of Oxen and 3 teams of horses.

Practically all on Elk River have worked for Uncle Jim at some time or other as he worked many people and after he disposed of his mill he took logging contracts on Elk and surrounding territory.

Some of the lumber in the C.J Richardson Hardware store building was

2 James Gibson. S.G. Smith Pocahontas Co.
Alex Robison for James Gibson this came off of the William McCalist-

place.

In 1897 & 98 Ben Brown sawed for James Gibson sawyers Bryan & John
Srecker, one set was on what is known as the Martha Shelton place and another
set by Brown was on Warwick Run on the Samuel C Rider farm this was mostly
cherry and all lumber sawed at Slaty Fork and vicinity was wagoned to Beverly
Randolph County and shipped from there to the many lumber markets in the East
the cherry going to furniture factories.

Elk River was heavily timbered and its manufacturing has made employ-
ment for many people as the lumbering started in this section in the 80 s
and has continued through all these years and today you find little lumber jo-
bs in many sections on Elk River and at this time many farmers are getting out
locust that is either trucked to ~~St~~ Charlottesville Va. or to Randolph Co. and
shipped from there to factories making pins .

The Government has bought a greater part of the Elk section and will
grow back in timber to be operated in years to come.

Information—James Gibson. Marlinton. W. Va. Elk Route.

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